



UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER

Wed 1st & 8th	Kindergarten 2018 Orientation Day
Wed 22nd	Twilight Swimming Carnival—Emerton Leisure Centre 4.00-6.30pm Choir & Orchestra performing at nursing home
Fri 24th	Year 5 Leadership Day
Wed 29th	Christmas Concert— 6.00pm

DECEMBER

Fri 1st	End of Year Mass— 9.30am
Fri 8th	Year 6 Fun Day at Luna Park
Mon 11th	Year 6 Final Assem- bly—2.00pm Reports sent home to Parents
Tues 12th	Year 6 Guard of Honour 2.30pm Year 6 Graduation Mass—7.30pm
Wed 13th	2018—Transition Day 11.30am-1.30pm
Fri 15th	End of Term for Students

Church of St Michael's
58 Orwell Street
Blacktown South

Weekend Masses:

Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 6.00pm
4th Sunday 10.45am Filipino Mass

Weekday Masses:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 8.00am
Wed: 7.30pm

First Friday: 7.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wed: 7.00pm—7.25pm

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Wednesdays 6.30pm-7.30pm

Phone: 9622 9149

Website: mqofblacktown.org.au

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Ph: 9622 9910

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St Michael's Primary School

Blacktown South

NEWSLETTER

2017 - ISSUE 17

31st October 2017

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

**"Selecting and building the right teams is one of
our most important tasks". JI**



I look forward to announcing our 2018 teaching teams in the coming weeks. I will continue my meetings with all members of staff over the next couple of days to share with them their teams for next year. The selection criteria was pretty simple, *where will our children most benefit from our talents and experiences?*

This week we will continue to confirm our 2018 PE position as well as short-listing our Coordinator 2 positions.



Last week I couldn't get over the energy and love of learning. Our year 4 team working with Ms Ferrari (CEDP), Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Pullen explored reading, comprehension, pedagogy and data analysis. Their work resulted not only in *deep learning* it also built a stronger *collaborative team*. That afternoon a large number of our team spent time working with *PatR Data* and *analysis*. When we add to the mix Mrs McKay's work with the 'Waterfall,' (Assessment Framework) and our work in planning our *2018 Action Plan* it's no wonder our love of learning is having such great effects on our *children's learning*.

Given our teaching teams feedback re (our strengths and challenges) **90% in the circle and 10% out**, one of our professional needs in supporting 'Learning for All children,' is around **Assessment**. What we are trying to achieve is an intensive focus on a high yielding element within our 'Learning Framework.' Over the next 2 weeks I will be publishing *draft goals* for your perusal and thinking.



Finally I want to thank all of you for accepting our invitation to last weeks Grandparent Liturgy. What a brilliant celebration of us living out our motto—
What a brilliant time in building community.



Love One Another,

John Laffan

PRINCIPAL

RE News

In last Sunday's Gospel Jesus' words call us to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are called to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. To be able to do this, we need to picture ourselves in their place – experiencing all that they are experiencing; not imposing our own values and circumstances. To see ourselves in the place of another is the key to responding with compassion. The origin of the word 'compassion' means experiencing with. If we are able to truly 'experience with' another person perhaps then we can genuinely recognise and respond to their needs.

There is an implicit, or understood, commandment within the command to love your neighbour as yourself. That is, we must first love ourselves. Whilst to say someone 'loves themselves' is used as a criticism of a person who is a bit too vain, that is not what is intended here. If we are to love others as we love ourselves we must first be content and happy with who we are. It is only when we are comfortable with who we are that we are able to reach out to those around us with compassion and be true Presentation People to all.

Anne Easton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Sports News

Athletics Awards

Congratulations to all of the students who were awarded with their Age Champion and Runners Up trophies last week. We thank you for your patience in waiting for this awards ceremony.



Junior Boy Age Champion -	Antoni Arshilo
Junior Boy Runner Up -	Abel Reec
Junior Girl Age Champion -	Georgia Bonello
Junior Girl Runner Up -	Olympia Samolis
11 year Boy Age Champion -	Nicholas Sekwat
11 year Boy Runner Up -	Zachary Smith
11 year Girl Age Champion -	Janelle Vella
11 year Girl Runner Up -	Olivia Marchione
Senior Boy Age Champion -	Aiden Galea
Senior Boy Runner Up -	Lual Lual
Senior Girl Age Champion -	Angelize Estil
Senior Girl Runner Up -	Yar Michael

Twilight Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 22nd November

Emerton Leisure Centre

Thank you to all of those children who have returned the notes by the due date (Monday 30th October). We are looking forward to our final sporting event for 2017. Schedule of events will be published in next fortnight's newsletter.



Summer is coming!

Please ensure your child is coming to school with their hats and a drink bottle filled with water, we have started to remind students about applying sunscreen before they leave home in the mornings. Please ensure all belongings are labelled, we continually have jackets left at PE with NO names on them.

Yours in Sport

Mrs Cristy Budd/Mr Joe Ng

PE Teachers

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P&F



Parents & Friends Association

Facebook: St Michael's Blacktown South P&F **Email:** stmichaelspandf@gmail.com

Kristen Mobile: 0409 952 852

Leanne Mobile: 0413 546 062

Calendar of Events

2017

November

15th - Presentation from the Parents Conference

P&F Meeting with AGM

November

29th Christmas Concert

Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall - Thankyou

A big shout out to everyone who came down and helped with our Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall on Sunday 22nd October along with those who came down and supported us 😊

Our Treasurer Maria will be sharing our profit at our next meeting on the 15th October, 2017.

Christmas Concert Meeting – Wednesday 1st November

With our end of year Christmas Celebrations fast approaching on the 29th November we are getting together Wednesday night 1st Nov at the Workers Sports Club at 7pm to start organising and everyone is welcome.

We understand with commitments that you can't always lend a hand and that's totally ok. Maybe you can help with the organising and not on the night or maybe you have some great ideas to bring along. We are a 'No Strings Attached' group trying to encourage our community to get together more 😊

Parent ~~Workshop~~ Catch Up with Nibbles 15th November, 2017 at 5:30pm

In September our PRC rep Michelle William and one of the P&F Presidents (Me, Leanne 😊) attended a weekend at Manly for the 2017 Parent Conference – *Future Ready, Preparing our Children for a Changing World*.

We have received a lot of great take out's from this conference as Parents along with an earlier one we attending in the year on Raising Resilient Children and would love to share these with you before our next P&F Meeting / AGM at 5:30pm

Come along, we promise it won't be boring, we'll have some great food to snack on and it will give us a chance to just get together as Parents and share some knowledge with each other. We also have some plans for our parents next year with resource sharing so would love to hear what you think 😊

Feel free afterwards to stay for our P&F Meeting as below: (you are absolutely not obliged to, just easier for many to hold them on the same night)

P&F Meeting & AGM: Wednesday 15th November, 2017 at 6:30pm

We are in our final term of school for the year (wow!) and with this see's our AGM Meeting fast approaching which will involve the re-election of The P& F Exec Team and Committee. The following positions can be nominated for:

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary & Assistant Secretary
along with General Committee Member positions.

If you are unable to attend the meeting please feel free to send nominations to myself at leannecash@gmail.com

Feel free to send through any agenda items for the meeting, we will be discussing next year's fund raising ideas 😊

Assistant Principal Report

Dear Parents and Friends,

We are in the process of putting children into classes for 2018. Unfortunately, we can not take requests for teachers. If you have any concerns that we may not be aware of please put it in writing to myself or make an appointment to see me in the next two weeks. Our teachers spent a great deal of time making sure the classes are balanced and are in the best interest of all students.

Save the date!

Our Christmas Concert is on Wednesday 29th November. Children will wear Christmas colours and families are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket or chairs and enjoy the spirit of Christmas.



We hope you can join us!

Meet the 2018 Teacher and Class

On Wednesday 13th December all children will meet their new teacher and class mates. It will be very important that all children attend this day as a way of setting up for success for next year.

Reports are coming home at the end of the terms so if you would like to discuss anything before the end of the term please make sure you see your child's teacher.

We thank you for your continued support.

Katherine McKay

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



top of the class with greg whitby



I RECENTLY launched a podcast series called *Blueyonder Voices* where I chat to educators and educational leaders.

One of the first questions I always ask is "Which teacher inspired you most and why?" Without a pause, my guests can all name that teacher.

The qualities of those in-

spiring teachers are things like passion for the work, commitment to improving their teaching and always putting the students first. These are the hallmarks of great teachers.

When I look back on the teacher who most inspired me, it was Alan Drummond, who taught history. Alan was honest when we needed

to work harder, challenging when he knew we could do better and always encouraging.

He had a deep passion for European history, which, I have to admit, I didn't share as a 17-year-old. In the end, the effort (his and mine!) paid off.

When I received my HSC results, I was amazed to

learn that I was ranked 30th in the state for history. It was Alan's passion and expertise that not only influenced my exam results but my decision to become an English and history teacher.

Teaching is a demanding profession. It is also one of the most important professions in society, which is why we celebrate World Teachers Day on October 27.

World Teachers Day is an opportunity for the wider community to recognise the valuable contribution made by teachers everywhere. It is also an opportunity to pause and reflect on the impact

those great teachers had on us and our children.

When you drop your children at school on Friday or you take a break at work, encourage you to think about that one teacher who inspired you the most. Some times we get the opportunity to thank them in person but mostly we live with the memories of their kind words and deeds. What we have become is, at least in part, the result of their influence.

The gift of great teachers is cultivating lifelong learning. For me it was a passion for history, so thank you A.J. Drummond!



**FUTURE SCHOOLS!
FUTURE READY!
WHERE TO NEXT?**



Monday, 13 November 2017

The Parent Representative Council Diocese of Parramatta

welcomes

Mr Mark Holyoake

DIRECTOR OF ENTERPRISE – CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIOCESE PARRAMATTA

Term 4 PRC Meeting

Where: Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd and Marion St, Blacktown NSW

When: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start

(PRC General Meeting will be held prior to our speaker session)

Register FREE at PRCParra on Facebook or at
<https://goo.gl/forms/m7vK9Tv210A0ogLf2>



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catholic out of school hours care

CHRISTMAS 2017 AND JANUARY 2018: COSHC OPERATION DATES

To assist COSHC families in planning their education and care needs over the Christmas closure period and to plan bookings for Vacation Care in January 2018, a calendar of Closure Dates and Operational Dates has been issued to all families enrolled with COSHC.

COSHC WILL BE CLOSED ON:

- Monday, 18 December 2017 and Tuesday, 19 December, 2017. COSHC staff will be participating in professional development in line with teachers and school staff.
- The Early Learning and Care team will be on annual leave from 22 December, 2017 to 5 January 2018. COSHC will not be operating during these days.
- COSHC will be closed on Australia Day, 26 January, 2018
- COSHC will be closed on Monday, 29 January 2018 for professional development of staff.

FAMILIES, PLEASE NOTE:

1. Christmas Closure

The **last day of operation** of COSHC services will be Friday, 15 December 2017.

2. January Vacation Care

The COSHC Summer Vacation Care Program commences on Monday, 8 January, 2018 to Thursday 25 January 2018.

3. 2018 Commencement of COSHC operations for Before- and After-School programs

COSHC will re-open on Tuesday, 30 January, 2018.

Bishop Office

Represent our Diocese: Share your Wisdom

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv is calling for greater participation of lay people through new advisory councils. Please consider nominating or encourage someone you know. Details, including the nomination kit, are available from parracatholic.org/advisorycouncils or by contacting Tanya from the Diocesan Ministry Centre on 02 8838 3460. Nominations close on Sunday, 5 November 2017.

Diocesan Liturgy Conference 2017

The Diocesan Liturgy Conference will be held on Saturday 4 November at St Andrew's Parish, Marayong. The conference, 'Liturgy: The Living Presence of Christ' is an excellent opportunity to gather together as a Diocese and explore the Presence of Christ in Liturgy. Day includes Keynote Speaker and various workshops including: Music and copyright, Bringing Christ to the Sick, Scripture and the Season of Advent, Sacraments of Initiation – a Field Perspective., organising a Mass- Ordos, Missals and Lectionaries. For more information go to: parracatholic.org/ofw or Office for Worship ivergano@parra.catholic.org.au

Pre-marriage preparation

The Life Marriage & Family Office in the Diocese of Parramatta has now launched an online booking system, allowing couples to enrol for pre-marriage preparation programs and to pay by credit card. Couples will be guided on the website to the most appropriate form of preparation, i.e., the Pre-Marriage Weekend Course (Friday evening & Sunday) or Prepare/Enrich, an individual couple preparation with face to face feedback sessions. Both preparations are designed to strengthen and enrich the couple's relationship and work on building a rewarding life together. Bookings may be made and dates chosen by visiting our website www.parracatholic.org/pmp

Enquiries may be made to our office on 8838 3460 or email lmf@parra.catholic.org.au.

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griegtograces.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griegtograces.org

Holy Hour for Vocations: 2 November

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite YOUTH (ages 18-35) to join us for Holy Hour for Vocations. Thursday, 2nd November 2017, at 7:00 pm. Join us also for pizza at 8:00pm. Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. RSVP: Sr Paula by 28th June, email: vocationscsfn@gmail.com or mobile 0449 656 406.

Rachel's Vineyard Healing Retreat: 3-5 November

This weekend retreat in Sydney is designed to bring psychological and spiritual healing to anyone who has been affected by an abortion experience including women, men, couples and grandparents.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries Australia is supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Confidential inquiries: tel or SMS 0400 092 555, info@rachelsvineyard.org.au For more information visit: www.rachelsvineyard.org.au

Mass in the African tradition: 5 November

Join us as we celebrate Mass in the African tradition. Very Rev Peter G Williams will celebrate Mass at 2.00pm at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown. Contact Stella Nwosu 0405 478 472.

Nigerian Mass in Igbo: 12 November

Rev Fr Chukwunonyerem Akamadu, Chaplain to the Nigerian Catholic community, will celebrate Mass at 11.30am at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Contact Fr Akamadu tel 0451 174 438, Stella Nwosu 0405 478 472.

St Philomena Association Holy Mass: 18 November

St John Vianney was very devoted to St Philomena. Pope Gregory XVI called her "the great wonder worker". Mass at noon with Confession from 11.30am: St John Vianney's Church, 17 Cameron St, Doonside. A short walk north from Doonside station, the one past Blacktown. Please bring a snack to share. Elizabeth tel or text 0423 15 44 63, epeoples9@gmail.com Facebook: Libby Peoples (events)

Holy Hour for Vocations: 24 November

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations from 6:30pm-7.30pm for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys. For information about priesthood in the Diocese of Parramatta and Holy Spirit Seminary, please contact Fr John Paul Escarlan, Director of Priestly Vocations, vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

Shrine Time for Young Adults 18-35: 26 November

One Holy Hour with prayer, reflection, meditation, praise & worship. 2017 is devoted to Praying for Vocations and Devotion to Mary as per our Holy Father's intentions for WYD 2018 in Panama. From 7.30pm-8.30pm followed by social gathering.

Mary, honoured as the Mother Thrice Admirable, offers 3 graces in the Shrine, this monthly event is a unique opportunity to experience them regularly: Discover your HOME in the hearts of Jesus and Mary; See breakthrough TRANSFORMATION in your life; and Get your spiritual boost to be an authentic WITNESS. In the Shrine at Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 24-26 November

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a Marriage Enrichment experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! Weekend date: 24th - 26th November, at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

Discernment to the Permanent Diaconate: 26 November

Come and learn more about vocations to the Diaconate and have a chat with our team members. We are looking for men aged between 35 to 55 and residing in the Diocese of Parramatta. Our discernment program consists of five sessions, with each session dealing with different aspects of the Diaconate. This is the fifth session of the 2017 program. Subsequent sessions will be announced in due course. Venue: St. John 23rd Parish, 160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768. Time: 3:30 to 6 pm (including Mass and fellowship). For further information visit <http://parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate/> please contact any of the following deacons:

Deacon James - deacon@stanthonyschurch.org.au

Deacon Tan - deacontan@john23rd.org.au or 0407270782

Deacon George - g.bryan1@bigpond.com

International Day of People with Disability: 3 December

The International Day of People with Disability is observed annually on 3 December. In Australia, over many years, the Church has sought to take this day as an opportunity to encourage a truly pastoral view that embraces our total community as the living Body of Christ. We especially pray that we, the Church, can strive to be a people of compassion and relationship, and a sacred place where our gifts are acknowledged, received and celebrated; for then we can truly proclaim that we are 'one Body in Christ'.

For more events please go to: <http://parracatholic.org/events/>

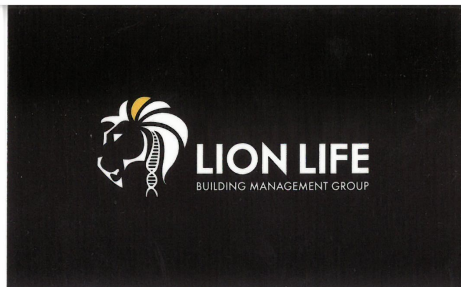
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